

REMARKS

The Section 112 Rejections

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, the Office Action requesting that the terms “first end user” and “second end user” be provided with an antecedent basis. Applicants have revised these claims to remove these two phrases. These changes are not related to the patentability of claims 9 and 10 or any other claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 9 and 10.

The Section 102 Rejections

Claims 3-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,600,720 to Gvozdanovic (“Gvozdanovic”). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Each of claims 3-10 include the feature of determining a number of transitions that are required to implement a desired mode of operation of communication systems connected through a first and second Voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) gateway.

Gvozdanovic does not disclose or suggest the use of such VoIP gateways, as in the claims of the present invention.

FIG. 1 of Gvozdanovic shows CPE (customer premise equipment) and central office equipment. This figure also shows what appears to be some kind of a gateway, denoted PVG, located in central office equipment.

At most, Gvozdanovic discloses the use of one gateway located in the central office equipment (FIG. 3 also discloses the use of a single gateway, denoted "IWF PVG").

Because Gvozdanovic does not disclose the use of two VoIP gateways as required by each of the claims of the present invention, Gvozdanovic cannot anticipate the claims of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 3-10.

Even if the CPE equipment 30 could be viewed as a gateway, Gvozdanovic does not disclose or suggest the determination of transitions by: (a) the generation of acyclic paths from a transition diagram, (b) generating simple cycles from the transition diagram; and (c) combining the generated paths and cycles to form a final set of paths representing determined transitions as in the claims of the present invention.

Further, Gvozdanovic does not disclose or suggest testing each communications system by causing the system to perform specified transitions, as is required by claims of the present invention.

The Office Action, on page 4, references column 21, line 60 to column 22, line 12 which is claim 1 of Gvozdanovic. Applicants' attorney has read this portion of Gvozdanovic and does not see where this portion discloses testing communication systems by causing the system to perform specified transitions, to evaluate the interoperability of communication systems connected through first and second VoIP gateways, as in the claims of the present invention.

Rather, this excerpt from Gvozdanovic discloses the control of traffic from a traffic source using a control signal to vary the operational state of the traffic source. The operational states of the traffic source disclosed in Gvozdanovic are wholly unrelated to determined transitions related to the interoperability of first and second VoIP gateways, as in the claims of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not equate the operational states in Gvozdanovic with the transitions of claims 3-10.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 3-10.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

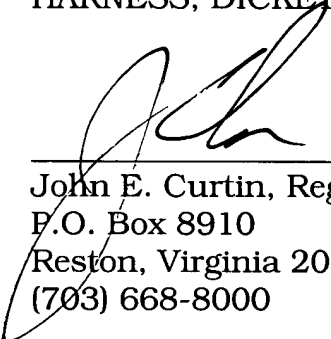
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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